

CALIFORNIA DIRECTORY *of* VETERAN SERVICES

EDD Employment
Development
Department
State of California





GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

California Directory of Veteran Services

On behalf of all Californians, I am proud to offer my sincere appreciation for your dedicated service in the United States armed forces.

Our great state is the proud home to nearly 2.5 million veterans. This directory pays tribute to the courage, strength, and sacrifice of our veterans who have served in the past and to the men and women who serve in uniform today.

This comprehensive directory is published jointly by the California Employment Development Department and the Department of Veterans Affairs, and it provides direct, accessible information and internet links to housing programs, employment and workforce training opportunities, vocational rehabilitation services and much more.

This guide illustrates the commitment of the Employment Development Department and the Department of Veterans Affairs to our distinguished men and women of our armed forces whose service is an inspiration to all Americans. I encourage you to take advantage of the exceptional programs and opportunities offered in this catalog.

Thank you for your commitment to California and the United States of America.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Arnold Schwarzenegger'.

Arnold Schwarzenegger

STATE CAPITOL • SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814 • (916) 445-2841

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**U.S.
Department
of Veterans
Affairs**

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) provides many significant federal benefits, including life insurance and medical coverage.

The USDVA also provides assistance to all veterans in determining their eligibility for and participation in a number of programs, including:

GI Bill

Education Benefits
Tutorial
Work study

Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (VR&E)

Readjustment Counseling

GI Loans

Home Loans
Manufactured/Mobile home loans
Condominium loans
Multiple Unit loans
Service-connected Disability Compensation
Non-Service-connected Disability Pension
(Wartime Vets Only)
Medical Care
Dental Care
GI Life Insurance
Burial Benefits

Visit the USDVA Web site at: www.va.gov

The USDVA has three regional offices in California.
Call for information or send your inquiry e-mail to:

Oakland: (800) 827-1000
e-mail: Oakland.query@VBA.VA.Gov
Los Angeles: (800) 827-1000
e-mail: LosAngeles.query@VBA.VA.Gov
San Diego: (800) 827-1000
e-mail: SanDiego.query@VBA.VA.Gov

**Specialized
State Programs
for Veterans**

Education and Training. The USDVA under the provisions of Title 38, U.S. Code, contracts with each state's government agency for the approval of courses for the education and training of veterans, eligible members of the National Guard, the Reserves, and other eligible persons.

The Department of Consumer Affairs, Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education (BPPVE) is the agency designated as the **California State Approving Agency (CA/SAA)** to perform this contractual obligation. Approval of courses of study at public and private colleges, universities, vocational, business, and trade schools are allowed in pursuit of educational, professional, or vocational objectives. The CA/SAA also approves exam preparatory courses and as of March 1, 2001, the CA/SAA approves licensing and certification tests sponsored by governmental and non-governmental testing organizations.

The following is a list of the entitlement programs that apply to education and training:

Chapter 30: Montgomery GI Bill - Active Duty
Chapter 32: Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP)
Chapter 35: Dependents Educational Assistance (DEA)
Chapter 1606: Montgomery GI Bill - Selected Reserve

For more information contact:

BPPVE/Title 38 Unit
400 R Street, Suite 5000
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 445-3427, extension 3013

BBPVE/Title 38 Unit
5777 West Century Blvd., Suite 362
Los Angeles, CA 90045
(310) 665-1991
Web site: www.bppve.ca.gov/veterans

The California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) serves the veterans of the State in several ways:

The Cal-Vet Home Loan Program provides low interest financing to qualified veterans purchasing homes in California, for use as their primary residence including condominiums and mobile homes. Effective January 1, 2006, the maximum loan amount is \$521,250. This amount is adjusted annually based on the Fannie Mae single family loan limit. The maximum loan for mobile homes in rental parks is \$125,000, and the maximum loan for farms is 150 percent of the Fannie Mae conforming loan amount. Construction loans are available to purchase a home site and build a single family residence. Rehabilitation loans are available to purchase a

home in need of repairs or renovation. No down payment is required on loans guaranteed by the USDVA, up to the VA maximum loan amount (currently \$417,000). A 3 percent down payment is required on other loans, up to the Cal-Vet maximum. Low cost fire, hazard insurance, and disaster coverage (earthquake, mudslide, and flood) is provided. A 1 percent origination fee is charged which can be paid to a Cal-Vet certified mortgage broker, if they originate the loan. A loan guarantee fee of 1.25 percent to 2.2 percent is charged to purchase the VA Guarantee or Private Mortgage Protection. In some cases the fee can be included in the loan amount.

Eligible veterans must have served a minimum of 90 days active duty and received an honorable discharge. Certain members of the National Guard or U.S. Military Reserves are also eligible. Veterans who have a prior Cal-Vet loan can receive another loan when the first loan is paid in full.

For additional information, you may contact one of the local district offices listed in the white pages of your telephone directory under "State Government Offices, Veterans Affairs," call (800) 952-5626, or visit the CDVA Web site at: www.cdva.ca.gov

The Veterans Home of California, Yountville is a community of and for veterans located in the heart of scenic Napa Valley. The home provides residential accommodations and a wealth of recreational, social, and therapeutic activities for independent living, plus the added security of four levels of nursing and medical care. Some 1,000 veterans (both men and women) live at the home, and the residential capacity will be increased to approximately 1,200 on completion of our new Alzheimer's/Dementia Unit in April 2007. Veterans desiring to be considered for membership must be residents of California, age 62 or older (or younger if disabled), and have served honorably.

Veterans interested in information on the Veterans Home can call (800) 404-8387 or write to:

Veterans Home of California
Attn: Communication and Development
P.O. Box 1200
Yountville, CA 94599

Visit the California Department of Veterans Affairs on the Internet at: www.cdva.ca.gov

The Veterans Home of California, Barstow is located in the high desert of Southern California, off Interstate 15, midway between Los Angeles and Las Vegas. This state-of-the-art home, which opened in February 1996, has the capability to care for 400 elderly or disabled California veterans in three levels of care: Domiciliary (independent living) for 164, skilled nursing for 180, and assisted living for 56. Services are similar to those provided at the Veterans Home of California, Yountville, except that hospital care is provided at the United States Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Loma Linda for those veterans eligible for VA care, or at the Barstow Community Hospital.

The Veterans Home provides California veterans with a living environment that protects their dignity and contributes to their feeling of self-reliance and self-worth. Many cultural and educational opportunities are available at the adjacent Barstow College campus. In addition, the Big Bear Lake area is less than two hours away.

The City of Barstow, with 22,000 residents, has a “home town” atmosphere and is only an hour from the Ontario Airport. Southern California beaches, and recreational opportunities are within convenient driving distance.

Veterans seeking admission should call (760) 252-6281, or (800) 746-0606, or write to:

Veterans Home of California, Barstow

Attn: Admissions
100 East Veterans Parkway
Barstow, CA 92311

Visit the California Department of Veterans Affairs on the Internet at: www.cdva.ca.gov

Veterans Home of California, Chula Vista is located on a 30-acre site adjacent to Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center off Telegraph Canyon Road. The Veterans Home of California (VHC) Chula Vista is the third state veterans home in the Golden State and the first located in a coastal, urban Southern California setting.

VHC-Chula Vista is a 400-bed, long-term residential and nursing care facility providing options for independent living and intermediate and skilled nursing. Completed in May 2000, VHC-CV employs 258 and contracts locally for a variety of supplies and services such as food and security.

A two-year study by the Governor's Commission on a Southern California Home resulted in a unanimous recommendation in favor of the Chula Vista location. In selecting Chula Vista, the commission highlighted the proximity to the area's acute health care facilities; wide range of commercial, recreational and cultural services that are available to residents of the facility; and the magnitude of community support.

Veterans seeking admission should call (888) 857-2146, or (619) 482-6010, or write to:

Veterans Home of California, Chula Vista

Attn: Admissions
700 East Naples Court
Chula Vista, CA 91911

Visit the California Department of Veterans Affairs on the Internet at: www.cdva.ca.gov

Future Veterans Homes

Greater Los Angeles and Ventura County Veterans Home:

The Greater Los Angeles and Ventura County Veterans Home (GLAVC Veterans Home) is actually three separately located facilities in the Southern California area. The three locations and occupancies are:

	Skilled Nursing	Residential Care for Elderly	Dementia	Adult Day Health Care
West Los Angeles Medical Center	252	84	60	
Ventura		60		50
Lancaster		60		50

These homes are presently in the final design stage and will start construction in the spring of 2007.

The homes will be owned by the State of California but will operate in partnership with the USDVA's Greater Los Angeles Medical Center. A number of the Home's resident services will be provided by the USDVA. Examples are medical care, pharmacy, nutrition, and laundry services.

The three campuses will be linked to allow movement of residents as necessary to receive appropriate levels of care. For example, a Residential Care for Elderly (RCFE) resident in Lancaster may develop a need for skilled nursing care.

That patient will be eligible for admission to the Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) in West Los Angeles (WLA) without going through the application process. Conversely, a SNF resident in WLA may recover to the extent that RCFE care would be more appropriate. This resident could then transfer to any of the other RCFE's.

Opening of the new homes will occur in 2009 for Lancaster and Ventura. West Los Angeles will open 2010. Prospective residents should watch the CDVA Web site, www.cdva.ca.gov, for details on admittance procedures. No admitting procedures or waiting lists have yet been established, but should be developed in 2008.

Veterans Home of California, Fresno

This planned home will provide care for 300 residents. This includes 84 SNF beds, 32 Dementia beds, 16 Respite beds and 168 RCFE beds. Opening of the home will occur in approximately 2012.

Veterans Home of California, Redding

This planned home will provide care for 150 residents. This includes 42 SNF beds, 16 Dementia beds, 8 Respite beds and 84 RCFE beds. Opening of the home will occur in approximately 2012.

Veterans Claims and Benefits Representation

Veterans and their dependents may be eligible for benefits administered by the USDVA. District office staff of the CDVA assists veterans and their dependents in obtaining these benefits through the process of application and representation of claims.

For additional information, contact a CDVA district office at one of the following locations:

1301 Clay Street, Room 1130N
Oakland, CA 94612-5209
(510)-286-0627

11000 Wilshire Blvd., Room 5203
Los Angeles, CA 90024
(310) 235-7155

8810 Rio San Diego Drive, Room 1122
San Diego, CA 92108
(619) 400-0070

Visit the California Department of Veterans Affairs on the Internet at: www.cdva.ca.gov

College Tuition Fee Waiver Program. The dependent child, spouse, or unmarried surviving spouse of a service connected disabled or deceased veteran may be entitled to tuition and fee waiver benefits at any campus of the California State University system, University of California, or a California Community College. To obtain eligibility requirement information and assistance in applying for this benefit, please contact your local County Veterans Service Office, your school's Veteran's Assistance Office, or the CDVA. You may obtain an application on the Internet at: www.cdva.ca.gov

The Veterans License Plate Program has provided more than \$3.5 million to support local veterans programs since its inception on January 1, 1995. The cost of a veterans license plate is \$30 annually. If you want to personalize your plate, there is an additional one-time charge of \$10. The veterans license plate is uniquely different from other special interest license plates because there are more than 100 different veterans emblems and logos to choose from. To view all the logos available, visit the Internet at: www.cacvso.org

The funds generated from the Veterans License Plate program are used to expand local services to veterans. The money collected is maintained in the Veterans Service Fund account and is distributed to California's County Veterans Service Officers (CVSO). The CVSO's assist veterans, as well as their dependents, spouses, and survivors, in obtaining state, federal, and local benefits.

For a veterans license plate application or additional information, contact a County Veterans Service Office. For the nearest CVSO in your area, consult the "Government" section of the telephone directory or visit their Web site at: www.cacvso.org. You may also obtain an application from the CDVA by calling toll-free (800) 952-5626, or by Internet at: www.cdva.ca.gov

California Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Services Division
1227 O Street, Suite 105
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 653-2573 or (800) 952-5626

Business License, Tax, and Fee Waiver of municipal, county and state business license fees, taxes and fees for veterans who hawk, peddle, or vend any goods, wares, or merchandise owned by the veteran, except spirituous, malt, vinous, or other intoxicating liquor, including sales from a fixed location.

Who May Be Eligible
Honorably discharged veterans and veterans who engage in sales (not services) activities.

Where to Apply
Bring proof of honorable service discharge to your local appropriate county/city licensing authority.

California Women Veterans Roster. Unfortunately, women veterans have not applied for or utilized their veterans benefits as have their male counterparts, which ultimately dilutes the voice of veterans overall. The California Women Veterans Roster is an information bridge that connects California's women veterans to the various resources and benefits available to them. The roster is strictly confidential and used solely as a link among California's women veterans.

Please call toll-free (800) 852-5626, the women veterans line at (916) 653-2551, or register on-line by going to the women veterans icon at: www.cdva.ca.gov

****AN IMPORTANT REMINDER****

Wherever you apply for any veteran's entitlement, you will be asked to provide a copy of your military discharge document, commonly known as a "DD-214." If you lose or misplace your DD-214, obtaining an official replacement from the Military Personnel Records Center, in St. Louis, Missouri, may take up to three months or more, thus delaying your ability to obtain medical care and other entitlements. You are, therefore, strongly urged to have your DD-214 recorded at your county recorder's office, at no charge. By doing so, you will be able to obtain a free official copy of your DD-214 in the future should the need arise.

County Veterans Service Offices (CVSO). Fifty-six counties have services available from a CVSO to assist veterans and dependents at the county level, to provide information on federal and state veterans' benefits, and to help veterans' or their dependents complete application forms for benefits. These benefits include outpatient, extended and ambulatory health care, compensation, pension, insurance, education assistance, vocational rehabilitation, home purchase assistance, and burial allowance.

For additional information contact your local CVSO or visit the California Association of Veterans Service Officers on the Internet at: www.cacvso.org

County Veterans Service Offices are listed below:

Alameda	(510) 577-3547	Orange	(714) 567-7450
Amador	(209) 267-5764	Placer	(530) 889-7968
Butte	(530) 891-2759	Plumas	(530) 283-6275
Calaveras	(209) 754-6867	Riverside	(951) 955-3010
Colusa	(530) 458-0494	Sacramento	(916) 874-6811
Contra Costa	(925) 313-1481	San Benito	(831) 637-4846
Del Norte	(707) 464-2154	San Bernardino	(909) 387-5516
El Dorado	(530) 621-5892	San Diego	(619) 531-4545
Fresno	(559) 454-5436	San Francisco	(415) 554-7100
Glenn	(530) 934-6524	San Joaquin	(209) 468-2916
Humboldt	(707) 445-7611	San Luis Obispo	(805) 781-5766
Imperial	(760) 355-8620	San Mateo	(650) 802-6598
Inyo-mono	(760) 873-7850	Santa Barbara	(805) 737-7900
Kern	(661) 868-7300	Santa Clara	(408) 553-6000
Kings	(559) 582-3211	Santa Cruz	(831) 458-7110
Lake	(707) 263-2384	Shasta	(530) 225-5616
Lassen	(530) 251-8192	Siskiyou	(530) 842-8010
Los Angeles	(213) 744-4827	Solano	(707) 784-6590
Madera	(559) 675-7766	Sonoma	(707) 565-5960
Marin	(415) 499-6193	Stanislaus	(209) 558-7380
Mariposa	(209) 966-3696	Tehama	(530) 529-3664
Mendocino	(707) 463-4226	Trinity	(530) 623-3975
Merced	(209) 725-3840	Tulare	(559) 685-3300
Modoc	(530) 233-6209	Tuolumne	(209) 533-6880
Monterey	(831) 647-7610	Ventura	(805) 385-6366
Napa	(707) 253-6072	Yolo	(530) 406-4850
Nevada	(530) 273-3396	Yuba-Sutter	(530) 749-4967

If any of the telephone numbers above are not in service you may also obtain your local number in the "Government" section of your white pages, or visit www.cacvso.org for a detailed list of offices.

**Rehabilitation
Services**

The State Department of Rehabilitation provides vocational rehabilitation and career preparation services for disabled veterans. These services may include one or more of the following:

- Counseling and guidance
- Assessment
- Vocational planning
- Training
- Transportation
- On-the-job training
- Assistive technology
- Job placement

When funding is inadequate to serve all eligible individuals, priority is given to individuals with the most severe disabilities. There are field offices located throughout the State, which are listed in the white pages of the telephone book under the listing for State of California. For information on the location of local Department of Rehabilitation offices, contact:

State Department of Rehabilitation

2000 Evergreen Street
Sacramento, CA 95815
(916) 263-7365
Web site address: www.dor.ca.gov

**Public
Records**

Veterans in California are not required to pay for copies of public records, which they need to file certain claims. Veterans can have their DD-214s recorded by any County Clerk Recorder's office free of charge. There is no fee for certified copies of discharge records, marriage, birth, and death records, deeds of trust, and/or mortgage records, if the veterans has a written request from the USDVA or a County Veterans Service Office. For the County Clerk Recorder office nearest you, consult the "Government" section of the telephone directory.

Job Service

Disabled veterans receive the highest priority for employment services from the California Employment Development Department (EDD) Job Service staff. Veterans and other eligibles follow in priority.

The EDD's Job Service works in partnership with a multitude of other local employment and training agencies; many Job Service staff are located in One-Stop Career Centers. Job seekers may get information about other services, such as job search workshops to develop and practice job finding and interviewing skills, and referral to employment-related training. To locate the nearest One-Stop Career Center, consult the phone directory under, "State of California, EDD," call the America's Service Locator toll-free at 1-877-US-2JOBS, or visit www.servicelocator.org. For more information about EDD services, visit the EDD Web site at: www.edd.ca.gov

The following is a brief description of the many services available to veterans seeking jobs and for employers who hire veterans:

Veteran Workforce Specialist (VWS) specializes in veterans' employment issues. The VWS is familiar with the issues faced by veterans and provides assistance with applications, job interviews, and vocational guidance.

Veteran Employment Service Specialist (VESS) assists with the unique needs faced by disabled veterans who are seeking employment.

CalJOBSSM is the EDD's Internet-based labor exchange system that increases the public's access to employment services.

CalJOBSSM provides job services to both employers who want to fill job openings and individuals seeking employment. It has a variety of job openings located throughout the State, and has the largest database of job seekers in California.

CalJOBSSM is available to employers and job seekers every day of the week, 24-hours a day, and can be used at the office, at home, the library, or from any location with Internet access. Virtually any personal computer that has access to the Internet can be used to access CalJOBSSM. Job seekers may access CalJOBSSM from computers located in EDD lobbies statewide.

Veterans can view a wide variety of job listings anywhere in the State and, if qualified, may directly refer themselves to employers for consideration. Veterans receive a 24-hour priority on job listings in the CalJOBSSM system.

Veterans may prepare résumés on-line by following simple instructions in CalJOBSSM. The CalJOBSSM résumé can be viewed by prospective employers or printed for job search needs. CalJOBSSM also automatically searches for new openings daily and will inform you of job matches by e-mail through a feature called Jobscout. Visit CalJOBSSM on the Internet at: www.caljobs.ca.gov

Résumé Writer – An Internet-based military résumé writer is available to veterans trying to transition skills they acquired in the military into civilian job opportunities. The résumé writer can translate more than 5,000 military occupations into civilian career objectives, qualifications, skills, experience, and training. A part of America's Talent Bank, the system is available on the Internet at: www.VETS-ATB.org

Job Search Workshops – These classes provide information on how to look for a job and methods and resources used to secure a job.

Workforce Investment Act (WIA) – The Federal WIA allocates funds to programs that provide employment, job training, and retention to adults, youth, and dislocated workers with multiple barriers to employment. These programs seek to improve the quality of the workforce, reduce welfare dependency, and enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the participant. The program is statewide and services are made available through the local workforce investment areas and other (WIA) employment and training providers.

Veterans Workforce Investment Program is targeted specifically to veterans. The program allows the Secretary of Labor, directly or through grants or contracts, to conduct programs to meet the needs for workforce investment activities of disabled service-connected, campaign, and recently separated veterans.

For further information, please contact the Veterans Representative at your local EDD office or contact the Program Development and Management Division at (916) 654-7799.

Transition Assistance Program (TAP) – The TAP is an intensive employment preparation program designed to assist individuals leaving the military to make a smooth transition into a rewarding and successful career in the private sector.

The TAP classes are conducted over three consecutive days and provide the service member with the vocational guidance to make a sound and realistic career choice.

The TAP classes are currently conducted at most military installations throughout California. All military branches, including the Guard and Reserve, participate.

Federal Contractors Job Listing (FCJL) – The FCJL program requires employers with federal contracts of \$100,000 or more to list job openings with EDD's Job Service. This program provides a large source of jobs for which veterans are given priority.

Return to Former Employer – Under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) of 1994, veterans and members of the National Guard and Reserve called to active duty or training have the right to return to their civilian jobs - in both the private and public sectors - with all the benefits they would have accrued if not for their military service.

Under the USERRA, the U.S. Department of Labor, Veterans' Employment and Training Service (USDOL-VETS), investigates complaints from veterans who believe these rights have been violated. The Department of Labor also attempts to negotiate voluntary settlements between veterans and employers, and recommends legal action in cases where adjudication seems warranted. Technical assistance is provided to employers, veteran organizations, and reserve units to assist in understanding and complying with the law.

For further information, contact the USDOL-VETS office in Sacramento at (916) 654-8178. You can visit the USDOL-VETS Web site at: www.dol.gov/dol/vets

State Employment

Most jobs with the State of California can be obtained only as a result of successfully competing in a civil service examination. To receive a pamphlet on "How to Get a Job with the State of California," you may either visit the California State Personnel Board at 801 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, CA 95814, or call (916) 653-1705. For jobs with the State of California, contact the Human Resources department at whichever state agency you are interested in working. You may also find out what examinations you can apply for by accessing the State Personnel Board's Web site at: www.spb.ca.gov

There are special provisions allowing veterans to receive preference in testing for open and open nonpromotional entrance examinations requiring college graduation **AND** less than two years of experience. The examination announcement will state whether or not veterans preference credits will be granted. In open examinations, eligible veterans, widows/widowers of veterans, and spouses of 100 percent disabled veterans receive 10 points. Eligible disabled veterans receive 15 points. In open nonpromotional examinations, eligible veterans, widows/widowers of veterans, and spouses of 100 percent disabled veterans receive 5 points and eligible disabled veterans receive 10 points. No veterans preference credits will be allowed once a veteran achieves permanent civil service status.

The points are added to the final score only after the candidate has successfully passed all parts of the examination.

To be eligible for veterans preference credits, you must be qualified as a veteran by meeting the required definitions. "Veteran" means any person who has served full time for 30 days or more in the armed forces in time of war or in time of peace in a campaign or expedition for service in which a medal has been authorized by the government of the United States, or during the period of September 16, 1940, to January 31, 1995, or who has served at least 181 consecutive days since January 31, 1995, and **who has been discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable**, but does not include any person who served only in auxiliary or reserved components of the armed forces whose service therein did not exempt him or her from the operation of the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940.

"Disabled Veteran" means any veteran as defined herein who is currently declared by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) to be 10 percent or more disabled as a result of his or her service; and "100 percent Disabled Veteran" means any veteran as defined herein who is currently declared by the United States DVA to be 100 percent disabled as a result of his or her service. Proof of disability shall be deemed conclusive if it is of record in the United States DVA.

To apply for veterans preference credits, obtain from any State department testing office, a copy of Form SPB 1093, "Application for Veterans Preference for California State Civil Service Examinations." This form may also be accessed through the State Personnel Board's Web site. This form along with a copy of military discharge papers (form DD214) should be sent to the State Personnel Board at 801 Capitol Mall, MS 37, Sacramento, CA 95814.

If you have further questions concerning veterans preference points, you may contact the State Personnel Board, at (916) 653-1502.

The Department of Personnel Administration administers military leave provisions for state employees.

Federal law restricts employee contribution to deferred compensation plans to state employees on payroll status. When on military leave, an employee may or may not be on payroll status. For more information, contact:

Department of Personnel Administration
1515 "S" Street, North Building, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 94244-2340
(916) 323-3343

Federal Employment

Employment with the Federal Government

If you are interested in working for the federal government, there are several programs designed to assist you. For further information, visit the United States Office of Personnel Management on the Internet at: www.usajobs.opm.gov

Disabled Veterans Business Enterprises

The State of California spends approximately \$9 billion each year on contracts and procurement. The State has established a **Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE)** participation goal of at least 3 percent. The goal applies to the overall dollar amount expended each year by an awarding department. If you are a disabled veteran, part of that 3 percent, which equates to millions of dollars, could be yours.

To be certified as a DVBE first you need to own a business. Unfortunately, at this time no assistance in business creation is offered by the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA). There is help available through Service Corp Of Retired Executives (SCORE), which is part of the Small Business Administration (SBA), the Small Business Development Centers, and some One-stop business offices.

Who is Eligible

In order to be certified as a DVBE in the State of California, a business must:

- 1) Be at least 51 percent owned by one or more disabled veterans;

- 2) Have its daily operations managed and controlled by one or more disabled veterans; and
- 3) Have its home office located in the United States. The office cannot be a branch or subsidiary of a foreign corporation, foreign firm, or another foreign-based business.

A disabled veteran means a veteran of the U.S., military, naval, or air service, with a service-connected disability of at least 10 percent or more, and who is a California resident.

How Do You Get Certified

The certification process is the responsibility of the Department of General Services, Office of Small Business and Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Certification (OSDC). To obtain DVBE certification, a firm must:

- 1) Submit a completed application; and
- 2) Provide a copy of an Award of Entitlement letter from the USDVA or the United States Department of Defense, dated within six months of the date the application is submitted to OSDC.

Procurement's OSDC conducts workshops on the benefits of certification and doing business with the State of California. The OSDC is available to assist you in completing the necessary documents. The OSDC can be reached at:

Office of Small Business and DVBE Certification

707 3rd Street, 1st Floor, Room 400
West Sacramento, CA 95605
(916) 375-4940 or (800) 559-5529

The process is relatively simple. You can download the application at: www.pd.dgs.ca.gov/smbus or call (916) 375-4940 to have one mailed to you. Complete the application and submit it along with the required documentation to the OSDC. There is a lot of information regarding both the DVBE and the Small Business Certification process on the OSDC Web site.

It is recommended that you apply to be certified as a small business while you are getting your DVBE certificates. Small Business certification has its own unique benefits, including a 5 percent bidding preference.

To take advantage of this program it is recommended that your business offer services or commodities that the State of California actually needs. Supply those services or commodities at a fair market rate. The DVBE program is an opportunity, being a good business operator guarantees success.

DVBE Networks

Most areas have a Network of active DVBE participants. If you need directions or have questions, contact the **DVBE Advocate**, at the CDVA, (916) 653-2573 or e-mail at: dvbe@cdva.ca.gov

Unemployment Insurance

The Unemployment Insurance (UI) program operates under federal and state law to provide benefit payments to eligible workers who have become unemployed through no fault of their own. It is financed by contributions from employers who pay a tax based on a percentage of wages of workers covered by the program. Under UI, eligible workers can receive payments for a maximum of 26 weeks, provided they are able and willing to accept a suitable job.

For claims filed with a beginning date of January 2, 2005, the maximum weekly benefit amount will be \$450.

Those that have served in the military for the last 18 months and become unemployed, should call the EDD immediately for UI benefits. Your claim cannot begin until you file for benefits. (If you have not been in the military during the last 18 months, you can access the on-line eApply4UI application at www.edd.ca.gov)

EDD UI Toll-Free Telephone Numbers inside California:

English (800) 300-5616	Cantonese (800) 547-3506
Spanish (800) 326-8937	Vietnamese (800) 547-2058

Outside California but within the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, or the Virgin Islands: 1-800-300-5616
TTY (NonVoice): (800) 815-9387

For general information on filing for UI benefits and to obtain an application visit the EDD Web site at: www.edd.ca.gov

**Department
of Labor
Veterans'
Employment
and Training
Service**

The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA)

USERRA is intended to minimize the disadvantages to an individual that can occur when that person needs to be absent from his or her civilian employment in order to serve in the uniformed services. It covers every individual in the country who serves in or has served in the uniformed services and applies to all employers in the public and private sectors including Federal employers. The law seeks to ensure that those who serve their country can retain their civilian employment and benefits, and can seek employment free from discrimination because of their service. USERRA also provides enhanced protection for disabled veterans.

USERRA is administered by the U.S. Department of Labor, Veterans' employment and Training Service (VETS). In California VETS can be reached by calling 916-654-8178. For additional information on USERRA or to request assistance, see: www.dol.gov/elaws/userra.htm

**State
Disability
Insurance**

California's State Disability Insurance (SDI) program provides Disability Insurance and Paid Family Leave (PFL) benefits. Disability Insurance (DI) benefits are paid to eligible individuals who are unable to perform their regular or customary work due to illness or injury, including pregnancy and childbirth. The PFL insurance benefits are paid to eligible individuals who take time off work to care for a seriously ill child, spouse, parent, or registered domestic partner, or to bond with a new minor child.

Both DI and PFL benefits are financed entirely by California workers through a payroll tax on their earnings. Both the wage ceiling and tax rates are set by law as are the minimum and maximum weekly benefit rates. DI payments may be paid for up to 52 weeks. The PFL benefits may be paid for up to six weeks in a 12-month period. These benefits provide approximately 55 percent wage replacement.

In addition, there are special provisions which may allow a veteran to obtain a valid DI or PFL claim if the veteran worked for an employer who withheld SDI contributions prior to or during the time the veteran was in the armed forces.

For general information on filing for DI or PFL, visit the EDD
Web site at: www.edd.ca.gov

To speak with a representative regarding DI, call:

1-800-480-3287 (English)

To speak with a representative regarding PFL, call:

English	1-877-238-4373
Spanish	1-877-379-3819
Cantonese	1-866-692-5595
Vietnamese	1-866-692-5596
Armenian	1-866-627-1567
Punjabi	1-866-627-1568
Tagalog	1-866-627-1569
TTY	1-800-445-1312

Fish and Game

The California Department of Fish and Game issues reduced fee hunting licenses to honorably discharged veterans with a 50 percent or greater service-connected disability, and discounted sports fishing licenses to veterans with a 50 percent or greater service-connected disability. First time applicants must provide proof from the USDVA of their service-connected disability. Persons wishing to renew their reduced-fee license may submit a new application and a photocopy of their prior year's license, along with appropriate fees, to any Department of Fish and Game office. Proof of hunter safety is also required for persons obtaining a reduced-fee hunting license.

Only the license is offered at a reduced cost. Additional stamps, tags, permits, or other items must be purchased at full-fee. For additional information contact:

Department of Fish and Game

License and Revenue Branch
P.O. Box 168013
Sacramento, CA 95816
(916) 227-2245

Visit the Department of Fish and Game on the Internet at:
www.dfg.ca.gov

Housing and Community Development

Blind and/or disabled veterans are entitled to special property tax exemptions if they own and occupy a mobile home. Depending on individual circumstances, veterans may qualify for license fee or homeowner's property tax exemptions.

For information on mobile home license fee exemptions, contact:

Department of Housing and Community Development

Registration and Titling
P.O. Box 2111
Sacramento, CA 95812-2111
(916) 323-9224 or
(800) 952-8356

Property Tax Exemptions

For information regarding county property tax exemptions for totally disabled service-connected veterans, and the surviving spouses of veterans whose cause of death was rated as service-connected, call the assessor's office in the county in which the property is located.

Motor Vehicles

The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) – A qualified disabled veteran is exempt from payment of all fees, except fees for duplicate plates and/or certificates for one passenger motor vehicle, motorcycle, or commercial motor vehicle of less than 8,001 pounds unladen owned by the disabled veteran. The vehicle cannot be used for transportation for hire, compensation, or profit. The veteran will receive a set of special "DV" plates which permit parking at all parking meters in the state with no time limit and allows for parking in handicapped zones. The USDVA proof of service connection is required. Qualifying disabled veterans are as follows:

Vehicle Code Section 295.7. A "disabled veteran" is any person who, as a result of injury or disease suffered while on active service with the armed forces of the United States, suffers any of the following:

- (a) Has a disability which has been rated at 100 percent by the Department of Veterans Affairs or the military service from which the veteran was discharged, due to a diagnosed disease or disorder which substantially impairs or interferes with mobility.
- (b) Is so severely disabled as to be unable to move without the aid of an assistant device.

- (c) Has lost, or has lost use of, one or more limbs.
- (d) Has suffered permanent blindness, as defined in Section 19153 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

NOTE: A disability compensation rating refers only to the compensation received and does not qualify veterans for the "DV" plates.

California recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor (CMOH) and a former American Prisoner of War are exempt from payment of fees for one passenger motor vehicle, motorcycle, or commercial motor vehicle of less than 8,001 pounds unladen weight owned by the CMOH or former American Prisoner of War. The vehicle cannot be used for transportation for hire, compensation, or profit. The exemption can be used for one vehicle only, an individual who qualified for more than one type of fee-exempt plate such as CMOH and Ex-POW cannot obtain more than one plate.

Special Pearl Harbor Survivor (PHS), Purple Heart, and Legion of Valor license plates may be obtained for one vehicle without the special plate fee for vehicles owned by a qualified veteran. The PHS and Legion of Valor plates are not issued to motorcycles. PHS, Purple Heart, and Legion of Valor plates are not issued to commercial vehicles being operated for hire.

Applicant Qualifications-A PHS plate applicant must have been a member of the Armed Forces stationed at Pearl Harbor, the Island of Oahu, or offshore within a distance of three miles, on December 7, 1941, during the hours of 7:55 a.m. to 9:45 a.m., Hawaii time and must have received an honorable discharge from the military service. Special Purple Heart and Legion of Valor license plates may be obtained by recipients of a Purple Heart and Legion of Valor.

To apply for these special plates contact the DMV. For the DMV location nearest you, please consult the "Government" section of the telephone directory or the Internet at: www.dmv.ca.gov. You may call the Telephone Service Center toll-free at (800) 777-0133.

For calls by speech or hearing impaired persons, call TTY: (800) 368-4327.

Parks and Recreation Services

The California Department of Parks and Recreation offers a lifetime pass for honorably discharged war veterans who are residents of California with a 50 percent or more service-connected disability, or were held as prisoners of war by forces hostile to the United States. Upon verified eligibility through application and payment of a \$3.50 fee, the pass entitles the holder to use of all State Park System operated facilities, including camping and day use. It is not valid for commercial use or for supplemental fees. Passes and discounts are not valid at units operated by local government, private agencies, or concessionaires and cannot be used in conjunction with any other pass or discount. For additional information or to request an application contact:

Department of Parks and Recreation

Disabled War Veteran / Prisoner of War Pass Program
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001
Toll-free (800) 777-0369

Visit California State Parks on the Internet
at: www.parks.ca.gov

State Taxes and Tax Deductions

The Franchise Tax Board state income tax has, for the most part, conformed to federal income tax law. In addition, there are special ways to compute the tax on any income you receive while out of the State or out of the country. Refer to Franchise Tax Board publication FTB Pub. 1032, *Tax Information for Military Personnel*.

You can request this publication by calling (800) 852-5711, or writing to:

Tax Forms Request Unit
Franchise Tax Board
P.O. Box 307
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-0307

If you have Internet access, you may download, view, and print this publication (and other California tax forms and publications). The Internet address is: www.ftb.ca.gov



STATE OF CALIFORNIA

LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS**

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